Feyziye Mektepleri Vakfı Işık School was founded in Thessalonica in 1885 when, led by Tevfik Efendi, several prominent Turkish families set about establishing a modern Turkish school for their children. The school, named “Feyz-i Sıbyan”, initially housed fifty students in four classrooms.

It quickly grew in stature and popularity, and soon a middle school and high school were added. By the beginning of the new century the school, by this time known as “Feyziye”, was welcoming children and young people from kindergarten to high school, and functioning in modern well-equipped buildings. In a short while, graduates of Feyziye began assuming prominent roles in the city, providing it with mayors, engineers, doctors and noted businessmen. These years marked the heyday of Feyziye in Thessalonica and were to last until the Balkan Wars. Many Feyziye administrators moved to Istanbul after the post-war Greek invasion, and continued to oversee the school in Thessalonica from Istanbul.

The Balkan Wars were followed by the First World War, and a new Feyziye School was opened in Beyazıt in Istanbul under the administration of the famous educator, Nakiye Elgün. Just as with the parent school in Thessalonica, Feyziye in Istanbul set out to provide education in a modern context. By 1923, all students in Thessalonica were transferred to the school in the motherland and the school in Thessalonica closed.

Soon, the buildings in Beyazıt proved insufficient, and a move was made to the rented Naciye Sultan Mansion in Teyvîkîye. Within a short time, the building and its premises were purchased. December 17th 1934 marked the 50th anniversary of the school, and with Atatürk’s official approval, the board’s decision to rename Feyziye as ‘Işık’ was ratified. In 1935-36, work towards the official creation of a foundation was completed, and following a series of renovations, the school in Nişantaşı finally became a modern institution. Over time, with school growth, these facilities too became insufficient in meeting the Foundation’s needs. The Ayazağa campus was built in 1986, followed by the construction of İşık University in 1996. In 2000, the Sile Campus of İ Sikh University was inaugurated to provide for the higher education needs of İşık Youth. At present, the Foundation owns ten schools and one university, with a total enrolment of around 7,500 students. Each school campus has a Kindergarten (for ages 36-60 months), an elementary school (grades 1-8) and a high school (grades 9-12 with a preparatory year of intensive English before grade 9.)

The History of the School

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FMV Işık Schools’ Philosophy

FMV Işık Schools is an educational institution committed to excellence and a belief in continuous education through the cooperation of students, teachers and parents. Its academic aim is to prepare students intellectually for higher education; its guiding principle is to first and foremost, “Raise Good Citizens”, i.e. individuals who are well-rounded and have a sense of responsibility to their environment and society.

Objectives

• To assist our students in discovering their potential; to help them acquire self-confidence and social skills; to foster in them maturity as individuals with a set of ethical standards.
• To prepare our students for higher education and adult life using enriched and up-to-date educational programs, and teaching and assessment methods practiced in a student-centered environment.
• To optimize our students’ use of information and communication technology and their research skills.
• To implement educational programs with a focus on foreign languages and organize international activities, projects and exchange programs which will foster an understanding and respect for different cultures and help students towards success and efficiency in a globalizing world.
• To develop students’ visual and emotional awareness through art education.
• To increase students’ self-confidence, promote awareness of physical education and a healthy life style, to give them a sense of fair play through sports.
• To ensure that the school community is committed to the principles of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, relates to national and international values and is environmentally responsible.
• To ensure that Atatürk’s Principles and Reforms are understood, embraced and passed on to future generations.

The governing body of The Feyziye Schools Foundation is composed of a Board of Directors and two General Managers. The Board of Directors has 15 members elected from a candidate list prepared by departing members, with special consideration given to the educational background, professional diversity and commitment to the school. One of the general managers is responsible for all technical needs, maintenance and construction, finance and accounting and human resources, while the other is responsible for education and the schools. The executive committee meets every two weeks, usually with the participation of the General Managers.

The Board of Directors is the Foundation’s highest decision-making authority, and manages the schools through its executive committee, composed of the president, vice president and general secretary.

The Financial Audit Committee, composed of Board members, inspects and evaluates educational, technical and financial matters; brings proposals to the Board, and ensures that decisions taken are put into practice.
The Nişantaşı Campus

The campus is the first of the Feyziye Schools established following the move from Beyazıt. It covers an area of 17,500 sq. meters in the grounds of what was once the Naciye Sultan Mansion. Situated in the heart of the city, in a prestigious shopping and entertainment area, the buildings enclose an inner courtyard. The primary and high school classrooms lie opposite each other, while the building overlooking the main avenue houses offices and common areas. The Kindergarten sits atop the fifth floor and has a wide terrace overlooking the city and the Bosphorus. The campus has an extensive library, two conference halls, indoor sports halls, several laboratories, art and music studios and many classrooms.
This second campus, opened in 1985, is set in extensive grounds of 36,000 sq. meters in a commercial district of Istanbul. It houses a secondary school building, 2 primary school buildings, a kindergarten building, an indoor swimming pool, a gymnasium, and common areas such as a greenhouse, outdoor sports grounds, playgrounds and indoor parking facilities. Işık University Faculty of Fine Arts and Işık Alumni Club are also located on this campus.

The campus, with its three schools comprising K-12, was accredited by CIS in January 2009.
Dating from 2000, this is the most recent addition to the Feyziye Schools Foundation. Its campus of 28,000 sq. meters is on the Asian side of the city and is set in extensive gardens. It houses a planetarium, libraries, science and computer laboratories, a sports and culture complex with indoor swimming pool and theater, a mini zoo and a botanical garden. A special Science High School is also part of the campus. The original historic mansion on site has been preserved and functions as a social center.
The academic program is bilingual and bicultural: Turkish language and literature, social studies, art and physical education are taught in Turkish; English language and literature, mathematics, and natural and physical sciences are taught in English in the high school; and from 5th grade onwards, German and French may be chosen as a second foreign language. First foreign language acquisition starts at kindergarten level and students are brought to intermediate level by the end of Grade 8. In high school, students continue their studies with a view to acquiring a place at top Turkish universities. Some students opt to study abroad, and to facilitate their growing interest in doing so, a college counseling office was established in 2011.
Students are admitted via an interview process which aims to recognize the strengths and weaknesses of each child. There are three age levels, beginning with children who are 36 months old. At the Ayazağa Kindergarten, an optional mixed age Montessori class is also offered. The Turkish Ministry curriculum is enriched with many other educational programs like GEMS (Great Explorations in Math and Science), Orff (Music and Movement), SCAMPER creativity program, English, arts and crafts, drama, music and physical education. Some elective activities are also offered. Children are taken on field trips to museums, the theatre and the cinema and on various outings to enhance life skills. In general, project-based lessons and activities dominate the curriculum, with an emphasis on developing an interest in learning, sharing, creating, taking responsibility, and expressing thoughts and feelings. The development and growth of each child is carefully observed and monitored by all teachers and counselors and feedback given periodically to parents.
The primary school spans grades 1-8, with children entering 1st grade when they are 72 months old.

In addition to the shared Philosophy and Objectives of the Işık Schools, the particular aims of the primary school are:

- to enable the child to realize his or her potential as a unique individual with distinctive interests and abilities
- to enable the child to develop as a social being and gain self-confidence through living and co-operating with others in a democratic environment
- to prepare the child for further education and lifelong learning.

English is the main foreign language, with German and French offered as alternatives in second foreign language learning beginning in 5th grade. The curriculum is, in general, integrated horizontally with other disciplines. Many clubs, activities, international projects, school partnerships, summer schools and exchange programs help students practice their foreign languages while bringing an international outlook to the curriculum. At certain grade levels, all students take Cambridge exams that are aligned with the Common European Framework of Languages.

Counseling service is a main strength of the school. Our counselors work with students, parents and teachers, taking a proactive approach in problem prevention. Counselors use many methods and procedures, such as surveys, rubrics, tests, group work, individual and class activities to learn about the strengths and weaknesses of students, provide psychological support in strict confidence where necessary, and help each and every one of them to function with self-confidence in their lives. Families are invited to seminars on the many themes of parenting, given either by the school counselors or guest speakers.

Arts (design, painting, printing, collage, sculpture, marbling, photography, mosaics, ceramic making), music (choir, piano, violin, flute, orchestra), drama and sports are taken very seriously; within the curriculum as well as through various clubs, after school activities, participation in numerous competitions, end of year concerts and shows. Swimmers often bring medals to the school in nationwide and sometimes international events.
The high school starts with an intensive 22-24-hour-a-week year of English Prep for students whose level is below B1. Those who are successful in Prep move on to grades 9-12, along with those who enter the high school with English above B1. Math and Sciences are taught in English, while other subjects are taught in Turkish. Students choose one of three tracks to study in grades 10-12; Turkish-Math, Math-Sciences, and Languages. English continues to be one of the strong points of the school; literature, essay writing, and preparation for TOEFL are highlights of the program. The aim of the English Program is to educate students in critical thinking and analysis, encourage in-depth discussion, and foster familiarity with some world issues through carefully selected works of literature; and also to enable them to pass the English Prep year in English-medium universities they will attend. French or German is taught as a second foreign language, and students take either DELF or FIT exams to certify their proficiency in these languages. Model United Nations and European Youth Parliament clubs, as well as Public Speaking and Debate are some of the important organizations and activities that support the English program. Native speakers make up 45% of the English language teaching staff.

In grades 11 and 12, students prepare intensively for the university entrance exam, and the school provides many opportunities to students who need extra help in different subjects, like extra hours, study groups, individual tutoring, mock exams and periodic assessments with formative feedback. In general, 95-100% of graduates are placed in national and foreign universities. Counselors support students in their many needs; choosing tracks of study, organizing seminars on different professions and careers, and visits to local universities, as well as helping them on an individual basis by providing them with work schedules and self-assessment tools, and fostering good study habits.

Both primary and high school students are encouraged to take up projects in various subjects, like Math, Physics, Chemistry, Biology, and Geography and participate in national and international competitions. Numerous students and projects have received many prestigious prizes from organizations like TUBITAK, the Math Olympics, Mind Games, Math League, the First Step to Nobel Prize, and the International Science and Engineering Fair. Various community service programs and clubs operate whose activities range from teaching English to public school students, fundraising for disabled children, to sending assembled computers to schools in rural areas.
FMV Işık Schools Ispartakule Campus, comprising kindergarten, primary, middle, and high schools, will begin admitting students in the academic year 2013-14. Situated in a newly-developing residential area in the west of the city, the campus consists of a three-story building with adjacent open and closed sports facilities on a total area of 21,000 m². In contrast to other FMV campuses, the spacious lateral dimensions of our Ispartakule building allow for outdoor access to and from all interior spaces, and lateral movement between all indoor areas. A main conference hall, laboratories, arts and music studios, libraries, an indoor swimming hall and sports hall are all housed in this main building. The school will be equipped with state-of-the-art educational materials, technology, and equipment. With no heavy industry or large-scale production facilities in its immediate vicinity, FMV Işık Schools Ispartakule Campus offers its students all the distinctions of a true school campus.

The FMV Işık Tuzla Çınarlı Bahçe Kindergarten is situated inside a residential complex in Tuzla, a suburb of Istanbul on the Asian side, and will begin accepting students in the 2013-2014 academic year. Kitted out with great care and attention to detail, this new 3-class addition to existing FMV kindergartens will play its part in promoting the mission of Işık, “first and foremost raising good citizens”.

FMV Işık Tuzla Çınarlı Bahçe Kindergarten
Işık University is a Turkish foundation university established in 1996 under the auspices of the Feyziye Mektepleri Vakfı (FMV), founded in 1885. Striving to be an innovative entrepreneurial university, characterized by excellence in teaching and learning, Işık University has a commitment to expand their focus on research. It is home to some of the most accomplished academicians. Through the provision of innovative methods of teaching, Işık University is able to attract outstanding scholars year after year.

Işık University, an English medium university, vigorously supports innovative teaching practices. The learning and teaching values as well as the practical and applied nature of the courses ensure that the graduates are world-ready equipped with the quintessential skills through industry and research experience, focusing on solving real world problems. This synthesis enables the graduates to be lifelong learners, effective in their place of work after graduation, leading to constructive contributions in a constantly changing world.

Işık University provides opportunities for students through scholarships and work experience as well as research opportunities for staff, and new facilities for teaching and research. To reach their goals, the University is investing extensively in new buildings such as the Research and Development and Application Center, new teaching facilities and in developing jointly productive associations with industry.

Ardent curiosity and dynamic debate are encouraged at Işık University, with the belief that differing perspectives lead to continual development. In developing new and better ideas as well as promoting lasting knowledge, the University aims to create an academic environment where exceptional students and academicians from around the world can be enthused to excel in their programs of study and research.

Işık University is a lively institution with an exhilarating future.

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**UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAMS**

**Faculty of Arts and Sciences**
- Faculty of Architecture and Design
  - Architecture
  - Industrial Design
  - Interior Architecture
  - Landscape Architecture
  - Urban and Regional Planning
- Faculty of Fine Arts
  - Cinema and Television
  - Fashion and Textile Design
  - Graphic Arts and Graphic Design

**Faculty of Arts and Sciences**
- Humanities and Social Sciences
- Information Technologies
- Management Information Systems
- Mathematical Engineering
- Mathematics
- Physics
- Psychology

**Faculty of Economics and Administrative Sciences**
- Accounting and Auditing
- Economics
- International Logistics Management
- International Relations
- International Trade
- Management
- Political Science

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**GRADUATE PROGRAMS**

**Graduate School of Sciences and Engineering**
- MS Programs
  - Civil Engineering
  - Computer Engineering
  - Electrical-Electronics Engineering
  - Industrial Engineering
  - Mechanical Engineering
  - Computer Engineering
  - Electrical-Electronics Engineering
  - Industrial Engineering
  - Information Technologies
  - Mathematics (Thesis Only)
  - Mechanics Engineering
  - Mechatronics Engineering
  - Software Engineering
  - Software Engineering (SUNY Brockport)
- PhD Programs
  - Computer Engineering
  - Electronics Engineering
  - Mathematics
  - Industrial Engineering-Operations Research
  - Information Technologies
  - Mathematics (Thesis Only)
  - Mechanical Engineering
  - Technology and Innovation Management (Non-Thesis Only)

**Graduate School of Social Sciences**
- MA Programs
  - Applied Economics
  - Art Theory and Criticism
  - Executive MBA
  - International Relations
  - Management Information Systems
  - Painting
- PhD Programs
  - Contemporary Business Studies
  - Science of Art
Making use of the unique campus location and environment, as well as the innovative curriculum, the students are provided the opportunity to encounter an exceptional student experience. Işık is a vivacious university with over 40 clubs. Social and academic events as well as exciting organized trips ensure that the students are closely involved in university life, all leading to the creation of an inimitable on campus buzz.

Consisting of indoor and outdoor sports facilities, various student clubs—the activities of which span a wide spectrum, from dance and photography to creative and critical thinking in the various fields of science, engineering and arts, Işık University provides a highly motivating environment of fun, work, sports, cultural activities and self-development for students of all ages. The University provides a serene environment to study on both campuses. Extracurricular services include Student Clubs, Health Services, Counseling, Food Services, Seminars and Career Advising, Library and Support Services.

Şile Campus
Işık University is located in its own campus near the Black Sea town of Şile, in the northeast of Istanbul, approximately 60 km from one of the centers Kadıköy, situated between a forest and the sea. The campus is relatively removed from the hectic life-style of Istanbul, yet close enough to participate in any activity the great, historical city of thirteen million has to offer. It is easy to commute to the city center from the main campus with reasonable prices.

Maslak Campus
The downtown campus at Maslak hosts our Fine Arts Faculty and Graduate Programs. There are frequent shuttles between the Şile and Maslak campuses. It takes approximately an hour to commute from one location to the other.

CONTACT INFORMATION
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Founded in 1998, the club coordinates sponsors and supports basketball, football, table tennis, volleyball, swimming and chess clubs and other activities. While some of these clubs compete in national leagues, most junior clubs are active in schools, participating in school leagues in Turkey and abroad. The swimming club has placed third in major national competitions, while some star swimmers break Turkish records, with one who has participated in the Olympic Games.
The Gallery, located at the entrance of the Nişantaşı campus, plays host to numerous well-known artists and their works and is considered among the most popular galleries in Istanbul. Despite the relatively short time that has passed since it opened, the gallery has already brought a new cultural drive to Nişantaşı and the city, with diverse exhibits of works of world-famous artists. In addition to its artistic objectives, the gallery aims to play host to a number of educational, scientific and social activities, bringing together artists and art lovers.

The gallery is very selective in planning its exhibits, trying to include collections from different disciplines of fine arts, like photography, sculpture, print imaging, design and painting. The gallery is open every day except Sundays, from 10:00 – 20:00.